

JUNE 29, 1976

C.G. JUNG LETTERS, VOLUME TWO

ANNCR: THE VOICE OF AMERICA BRINGS YOU NOW ANOTHER IN THE WEEKLY SERIES FROM THE BOOKSHELF -- A SERIES IN WHICH WE REPORT ON BOOKS AMERICANS ARE READING. TODAY, A REPORT BY VOA'S BOOK EDITOR, ROGER LYONS, ON THE SECOND VOLUME OF THE LETTERS OF CARL JUNG, WRITTEN FROM 1951-1961, THE LAST DECADE OF HIS LIFE. THE LETTERS, EDITED BY GERHARD ADLER, ARE PUBLISHED BY PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS. HERE NOW IS YOUR BOOK EDITOR -----.

EDITOR: SIGMUND FREUD, WITH THE HELP OF CARL JUNG AND ALFRED ADLER, DURING THE EARLY DECADES OF THIS PRESENT CENTURY, FOUNDED PSYCHOANALYSIS AS A METHOD OF TREATING MENTAL DISTURBANCE. PSYCHOANALYSIS DEALS WITH THE ROLE THE UNCONSCIOUS PLAYS IN HUMAN EXISTENCE. JUNG, THE LAST OF THE BIG THREE, AS THEY BECAME KNOWN, DIED IN 1961 AT THE AGE OF EIGHTY-FIVE.

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T.  
TODAY, A GENERATION LATER, AS THE CENTENNIAL OF JUNG'S BIRTH IS BEING CELEBRATED, NEW WORKS BY THIS PROLIFIC AND CONTROVERSIAL PIONEER ARE STILL BEING PUBLISHED. WHEN THEY ARE ALL IN PRINT, THEY WILL PROBABLY COME TO WELL OVER TWENTY-THOUSAND PAGES.

JUNG BROKE WITH FREUD IN 1914 OVER, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE ISSUE OF FREUD'S FOCUS ON SEX AS THE PRIME MOTIVATING FORCE FOR HUMAN BEHAVIOR. JUNG THEN FOLLOWED, FOR ALMOST FIFTY YEARS, HIS OWN PATH, WHICH EMPHASIZED THE CREATIVE AND HEALING FORCE OF THE UNCONSCIOUS AS WELL AS ITS DISRUPTIVE EFFECTS. HIS APPROACH LED TO ENCOUNTERS WITH THE INNER

EDITOR: WORLD NOT USUALLY PART OF ORDINARY EXPERIENCE. THIS, MORE  
(CONT) THAN JUNG'S WRITING STYLE -- WHICH SOME CRITICS OBJECT TO --  
IS WHAT MAKES JUNG SO HARD TO UNDERSTAND. YET IN THE LAST  
DECADE OF HIS LIFE -- A PERIOD THESE LETTERS COVER -- PEOPLE  
FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD WERE WRITING TO ASK HIS ADVICE,  
RAISE QUESTIONS, OR TO COMMENT ON HIS WORKS. INEVITABLY,  
THERE WAS A GOOD DEAL OF MISUNDERSTANDING, WHICH CAUSED  
JUNG NOT A LITTLE SADNESS AND A FEELING OF BEING ALONE ON  
A MOUNTAIN TOP. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE FELT GREAT JOY WHEN  
HE FOUND A KINDRED SOUL. IN A LETTER TO HIS CLOSE COLLEAGUE,  
ERICH NEUMANN, HE WRITES:

VOICE: "VERY MANY THANKS FOR YOUR KIND LETTER AND THE WAY YOU HAVE  
UNDERSTOOD ME. THIS COMPENSATES FOR A THOUSAND MISUNDER-  
STANDINGS; YOU HAVE PUT YOUR FINGER ON THE RIGHT SPOT, A  
PAINFUL ONE FOR ME: I COULD NOT CONSIDER THE AVERAGE READER.  
RATHER, HE HAS TO CONSIDER ME."

EDITOR: ACTUALLY, JUNG NEVER STOPPED CONSIDERING "THE AVERAGE READER."  
HIS VERY LAST WORK, AN INTRODUCTION TO MAN AND HIS SYMBOLS,  
A SERIES OF ESSAYS ON JUNGIAN PSYCHOLOGY BY HIS PUPILS, WAS  
AN ATTEMPT TO REACH THE MARKET PLACE. THE SAME DOGGED  
PERSISTENCE TO GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING FOR HIS IDEAS  
IS EVIDENT IN THESE LETTERS. THE RESULT IS THAT, DIFFICULT  
AS THEY ARE, ONE SOMETIMES GETS A BETTER GRASP OF JUNG'S IDEAS  
HERE THAN IN MOST OF HIS OTHER WORKS. BECAUSE THIS  
CORRESPONDENCE DOES NOT LIMIT ITSELF TO A SCIENTIFIC FRAMEWORK,  
ONE GAINS A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON THIS COMPLEX MAN.

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P.T.  
FAR FROM BEING A JOY, JUNG REFERS TO "THE CURSE OF LETTER-  
WRITING," A TASK HE COMPLAINED ABOUT ALL HIS LIFE. PERHAPS  
ONE EXPLANATION OF HIS CONSCIENTIOUSNESS LIES IN HIS REMARK  
THAT "ONLY THROUGH SUBMISSION TO DETESTABLE DUTIES CAN  
ONE GAIN A CERTAIN FEELING OF LIBERATION WHICH INDUCES A  
CREATIVE MOOD."

UNFORTUNATELY, MUCH OF THE MORE HUMAN SIDE OF JUNG DOES  
NOT COME THROUGH IN THESE LETTERS. THIS IS LARGELY BECAUSE  
HIS FAMILY, WITH ONLY A VERY FEW EXCEPTIONS, WOULD NOT  
PERMIT PUBLICATION OF JUNG'S LETTERS TO THEM AND MOST OF  
THE MORE INTIMATE LETTERS TO HIS ASSOCIATES HAVE BEEN  
WEEDED OUT OR DESTROYED. BUT ONCE IN A WHILE, WE DO  
GET A GLIMPSE. FOR EXAMPLE, ONE OF HIS COLLEAGUES WANTED TO  
KNOW WHY JUNG KEPT A BUST OF VOLTAIRE IN HIS WAITING ROOM  
"WHICH RECEIVES YOU," THE CORRESPONDENT WROTE, "WITH ITS  
CYNICAL, SUPERIOR SMILE." JUNG WROTE BACK:

VOICE: "I LIKE TO LOOK AT THE MOCKING VISAGE OF THE OLD CYNIC,  
WHO REMINDS ME OF THE FUTILITY OF MY IDEALISTIC ASPIRATIONS,  
THE DUBIOUSNESS OF MY MORALS, THE BASENESS OF MY MOTIVES,  
OF THE HUMAN -- ALAS -- ALL TOO HUMAN. THAT IS WHY MONSIEUR

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P.T.  
AROUET DE VOLTAIRE STILL STANDS IN THE WAITING ROOM, LEST  
MY PATIENTS LET THEMSELVES BE DECEIVED BY THE AMIABLE DOCTOR.  
MY SHADOW IS INDEED SO HUGE THAT I COULD NOT POSSIBLY OVERLOOK  
IT IN THE PLAN OF MY LIFE...MANY BITTER EXPERIENCES HAVE  
FORCED ME TO SEE THAT THOUGH THE SIN ONE HAS COMMITTED...  
CAN BE REGRETTEED, IT IS NOT CANCELLED OUT."

EDITOR: IN RECENT YEARS, THERE HAS BEEN A REMARKABLE RESURGENCE OF INTEREST IN JUNGIAN PSYCHOLOGY IN THE UNITED STATES. ONE REASON MAY BE THAT EXTROVERTED AMERICANS HAVE BECOME DISCOURAGED BY THEIR INABILITY TO FIND ANSWERS TO THE CRUCIAL PROBLEMS THE WORLD FACES -- AT LEAST THROUGH THE EXTERNAL APPROACHES OF SCIENCE, ECONOMICS, POLITICS AND REORGANIZATION. AN INCREASING NUMBER HAS GRADUALLY BEGUN TO TURN INWARD TO THE UNTAPPED RESOURCES OF THEIR OWN SOULS. THIS IS BASICALLY WHAT JUNG WAS FIGHTING FOR ALL HIS LIFE. HE EXPRESSED THIS IDEA IN A LETTER TO A NEW YORK STOCKBROKER WHO SUBMITTED THE QUESTION: "WHAT IS THE BEST WAY FOR AN INDIVIDUAL TO CONTRIBUTE TO BETTER UNDERSTANDING IN THE WORLD?" IN HIS REPLY, JUNG SAID IN PART:

VOICE: "I...ESPOUSE THE UNPOPULAR VIEW THAT A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD CAN COME ONLY FROM THE INDIVIDUAL AND BE PROMOTED ONLY BY HIM.

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T.  
BUT CONSIDERING THE VAST NUMBERS INVOLVED, THIS TRUTH LOOKS LIKE A COUNSEL OF DESPAIR AND FUTILITY. SUPPOSING, HOWEVER, THAT ANYONE DID WANT TO MAKE HIS INFINITESIMAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE DESIRED IDEAL, HE WOULD HAVE TO BE IN A POSITION TO UNDERSTAND ANOTHER PERSON.

THE INDISPENSABLE PRECONDITION FOR THIS IS THAT HE UNDERSTAND HIMSELF. IF HE DOESN'T, HE WILL INEVITABLY SEE THE OTHER PERSON THROUGH THE DECEPTIVE AND DISTORTING LENS OF HIS OWN PREJUDICES AND PROJECTIONS AND WILL RECOMMEND AND IMPUTE TO HIM THE VERY THINGS HE MOST NEEDS HIMSELF. SO WE MUST UNDERSTAND OURSELVES TO A CERTAIN EXTENT IF WE WANT ANY REAL COMMUNICATION WITH OTHERS."

EDITOR: WHATEVER THE DIFFICULTIES OF JUNG'S IDEAS IN SUCH FIELDS AS ALCHEMY, RELIGION, MYTHOLOGY AND PARAPSYCHOLOGY, THIS SENTIMENT SEEMS EASY ENOUGH TO GRASP. ONE COULD SAY IT IS JUST PLAIN COMMON SENSE. YET HOW MANY OF US REALLY TAKE IT WITH ENOUGH SERIOUSNESS TO ADOPT IT AS A FIRST PRIORITY FOR OUR LIVES?

ANNCR: YOU HAVE BEEN LISTENING TO A REPORT ON THE RECENTLY PUBLISHED C.G. JUNG LETTERS: 1951-1961, EDITED BY GERHARD ADLER. AND NOW AN INVITATION TO JOIN US NEXT WEEK (AT THIS TIME) FOR ANOTHER IN OUR SERIES OF BOOK DISCUSSIONS ENTITLED...FROM THE BOOKSHELF.

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